OPINION 1964

Apis proava Menge, 1856 (currently *Electrapis proava*; Insecta, Hymenoptera): conserved by the designation of a neotype

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Hymenoptera; APIDAE; *Apis proava*; fossil bees; Baltic amber; Eocene.

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary power all previous type fixations for the nominal species *Apis proava* Menge, 1856 are hereby set aside and the paralectotype (specimen no. BMNH In.18757 in the Palaeontology Department, The Natural History Museum, London) is designated as the neotype.

(2) The name *proava* Menge, 1856, as published in the binomen *Apis proava* and as defined by the neotype designated under the plenary power in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3124

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Apis proava* Menge, 1856 by the designation of a neotype was received from Dr Michael S. Engel (*American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.*) on 29 March 1999. After correspondence the case was published in BZN **56**: 134–135 (June 1999). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 2000 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN **56**: 135. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2000 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 20: Bock, Bouchet, Brothers, Cocks, Cogger, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kerzhner, Macpherson, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Papp, Patterson, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Song, Štys

Negative votes — 2: Kraus and Mahnert.

No vote was received from Dupuis.

Lehtinen was on leave of absence.

Kraus commented: 'I vote against the proposal to designate the existing paralectotype as the neotype of *Apis proava* Menge, 1856 because neither stability nor universality are threatened; the paralectotype does not leave any doubt about the identity of the species'. Mahnert commented: 'The identity of the species is clearly established, and even if the lectotype is in poor condition, the name *A. proava* is not threatened'. Dupuis declined to vote on the grounds that less than a year had elapsed since publication of the case. [*Editorial note*. An explanation of procedure followed in sending cases for voting was given in BZN **54**: 53–54, March 1997].

Original references

The following is the original reference to the name placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

proava, *Apis*, Menge, 1856, *Lebenszeichen vorweltlicher, im Bernstein eingeschlossener Thiere*, p. 26.